

February 15, 1854, issue of the *North Carolina Star* showed that the Haywood and Pittsboro Plank Road Company was making progress. It stated, "The whole stock had been subscribed, the company has been organized, the officers elected, and the survey is in progress." On March 4 the grading contracts were to be prepared. The newspaper also reported that an effort was being made to get the road extended to Hillsboro and "that the Plank Road from Haywood to Chapel Hill will also be built." (Apparently neither of these efforts ever developed.)<sup>42</sup>

It is unclear if the Haywood and Pittsboro Plank Road Company finished the route all the way to Pittsboro. According to a 1976 *Chatham News* article, the plank road was finished in 1856. Colton's 1861 map shows a road—albeit not necessarily a plank one—connecting Haywood to Pittsboro. An 1865 map of North Carolina that features plank roads showed a road near Haywood and ending in Pittsboro, but it is not designated as a plank road. An 1870 map of Chatham County has a road from Haywood to Pittsboro. Yet, in a 1939 article on plank roads in North Carolina by Robert B. Starling, a map showed that the plank road was only partially completed (See Appendices J, K, L, and O). Nevertheless, the company was collecting tolls by 1858. In February 1863 the General Assembly extended the corporation's charter by thirty years. It also provided the company with the option of laying a "McAdamized road" or relaying plank on the route.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>42</sup> Robert B. Starling, "The Plank Road Movement in North Carolina" *North Carolina Historical Review* 16 (January and April 1939): 6-7, 148, and 162; *Laws of North Carolina, 1852*, c. 107, c. 108, and c. 109; *North Carolina Star* (Raleigh, weekly), February 15, 1854.

<sup>43</sup> *Chatham News* (Siler City), August 5, 1976, Supplement, *Chatham News-Record: 1976 Bicentennial Salute*; Robert B. Starling, "The Plank Road Movement in North Carolina" *North Carolina Historical Review* 16 (January and April 1939): 148 and 162; To the Stockholders of the Haywood and Pittsboro Plank Road Company, 1858-1860, Chatham County Road and Bridge Records, State Archives; *Private Laws of North Carolina, Adjourned Session, 1862-1863*, c. 25.